



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
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IN REPLY REFER TO

Amendment to Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

After the Record of Decision for the *Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge* (Conservation Plan) was signed on February 8, 2007, Refuge staff immediately began working to implement the goals and objectives described in the plan. In December 2008, Kodiak Refuge issued a draft prospectus that described a competitive permit offering for operation of a bear viewing program at O'Malley River. The program would have combined agency-supervised public use with guided use, as described in the Conservation Plan. However, public comment on the draft prospectus prompted a reevaluation and a decision to amend the Conservation Plan to allow for a program comprised solely of guided public use.


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) staff reviewed the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and determined that this proposed change to the Conservation Plan is a categorical exclusion and requires no further NEPA analysis. The Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge is therefore amended as follows:

Amendment 1: On page 2-96 of the *Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge* (August 2008), change the "Management of O'Malley River" section to read:

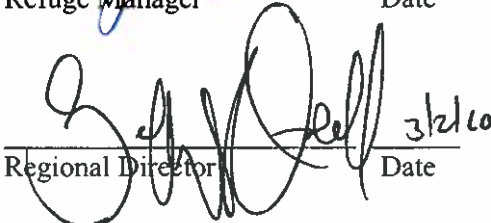
Management of O'Malley River—Modify the O'Malley River closure regulations to allow operation of a guided bear-viewing program. A bear-viewing program prospectus, developed by the Service in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and other interested parties, will be offered for competitive bid. Applicants will be required to submit a proposed operations plan and other pertinent information outlined in the prospectus. Applications will be evaluated and a special use permit awarded for operation of the program. Kodiak Refuge staff, in coordination with ADF&G, will provide management oversight of the program, but the permittee will be responsible for all aspects of operation.

All other references to the O'Malley River bear viewing program found in the conservation plan will hereby refer to the description above.

In addition to the amended bear-viewing program description, an incorrect acreage figure for the Den Mountain snowmachine closure on page 2-102 is hereby corrected. The size of the area, mistakenly reported as 2,820 acres, is actually 4,972 acres.


Refuge Manager Date

 3/1/10
Chief, National Wildlife
Refuge System, Alaska Date


Regional Director Date